

upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Calendar No. 11, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, of Louisiana, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during her tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations.

Charles E. Schumer, Robert Menendez, Tina Smith, Tammy Baldwin, Thomas R. Carper, Sheldon Whitehouse, Patrick J. Leahy, Brian Schatz, Christopher A. Coons, Jack Reed, Michael F. Bennet, Debbie Stabenow, Chris Van Hollen, Ron Wyden, Martin Heinrich, Bernard Sanders, Edward J. Markey, Cory A. Booker.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Linda Thomas-Greenfield, of Louisiana, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during her tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 77, nays 20, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 62 Ex.]

YEAS—77

Baldwin	Cornyn	Kaine
Bennet	Cortez Masto	Kelly
Blumenthal	Crapo	Kennedy
Blunt	Duckworth	King
Booker	Durbin	Klobuchar
Boozman	Feinstein	Leahy
Brown	Fischer	Lee
Burr	Gillibrand	Lujan
Cantwell	Graham	Lummis
Capito	Hassan	Manchin
Cardin	Heinrich	Markey
Carper	Hickenlooper	McConnell
Casey	Hirono	Menendez
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Merkley
Collins	Inhofe	Moran
Coons	Johnson	Murkowski

Murphy	Rounds	Tillis
Murray	Sanders	Van Hollen
Ossoff	Schatz	Warner
Padilla	Schumer	Warnock
Peters	Sinema	Warren
Portman	Smith	Whitehouse
Reed	Stabenow	Wicker
Risch	Sullivan	Wyden
Romney	Tester	Young
Rosen	Thune	

NAYS—20

Barrasso	Ernst	Rubio
Blackburn	Grassley	Sasse
Braun	Hagerty	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Hawley	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Hoeben	Shelby
Cruz	Lankford	Tuberville
Daines	Marshall	

NOT VOTING—3

Paul	Shaheen	Toomey
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 77, the nays are 20.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Linda Thomas-Greenfield, of Louisiana, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during her tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:40 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. SINEMA).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Thomas J. Vilsack, of Iowa, to be Secretary of Agriculture.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 20 minutes of debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I am very pleased today to rise to support the nomination of our former Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack. We are very lucky that he is willing to serve again. He is certainly no stranger to all of us, and we are very fortunate that he is willing to once again be part of public service. In serving as Agriculture Secretary during all 8 years of the Obama administration, Secretary Vilsack presided over the USDA with decisive, effective leadership. It was a pleasure to work with him.

The Agriculture Committee held a bipartisan hearing earlier this month, and mere hours later, we voted to advance his nomination without any objection. His deep knowledge of agri-

culture and rural America is needed now more than ever, for our farmers, our families, and our rural communities have so many challenges right now.

The COVID-19 crisis is continuing to disrupt our food supply chain for farmers, food processors, and essential workers. Tens of millions of families still don't have enough to eat and are lining up at food banks in order to put food on the table. The climate crisis is posing an extremely grave threat to the long-term viability of our economy and our food supply. Farmers of color, who have long faced civil rights abuses and systemic racism, continue to experience economic disparities.

On top of all of this, there is a lot of work to be done to rebuild the USDA workforce so that the Department can fulfill its very important mission.

American farmers, families, and rural communities need strong, effective leadership now more than ever. When it comes to strengthening our food and farm economy, I am very confident that soon-to-be-confirmed Secretary Tom Vilsack will be more than up to the task. He has a proven track record and will embrace new ideas in a new era at the Department.

I know he is committed to addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, and I know he is committed to focusing on feeding our families in need. We have more than 50 million Americans today who are in a hunger crisis, themselves and their families. I know he cares deeply and is committed to making sure they are able to feed their families.

I know he is very focused on tackling the climate crisis and has done a lot of work, since leaving as the Secretary of Agriculture a few years ago, focusing on voluntary, producer-led, farmer-friendly efforts that can make a real difference and allow agriculture to lead in addressing the climate crisis.

I also know he is very focused and committed on addressing the racial discrimination that we have seen systematically over the years in agriculture and addressing those issues in a very fair and equitable way. I look forward to partnering with him on these issues.

Senator BOOZMAN and I enjoyed our first hearing, which was his confirmation hearing. I look forward to partnering with Senator BOOZMAN and our entire committee to be able to move forward on a whole range of issues that are important for all of us, for everybody in our country. To do that, we need a great partner and an effective partner in the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, and I know with great confidence that this person is Tom Vilsack.

I yield the floor.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam President, as the United States is facing its worst hunger crisis since the Great Depression and family farms are struggling, President Biden has nominated Thomas Vilsack to reprise his role as Secretary of Agriculture and capably steward the Department to address

these critical needs and support our rural communities.

Mr. Vilsack served as Agriculture Secretary for all 8 years of the Obama administration, overseeing investments in rural communities, healthier school meals, and better food safety standards. He also chaired the first White House Rural Council, which streamlined the effectiveness of Federal programs serving rural America, engaged stakeholders on issues and solutions in rural communities, and promoted and coordinated private-sector partnerships in those communities.

Our agricultural landscape has changed over the last 4 years, and we must accelerate our transition to net-zero agriculture by incentivizing practices like crop-covering and carbon sequestration. Agricultural conservation practices are also critical for achieving the pollution-reduction targets for nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment under the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. I look forward to working closely with Mr. Vilsack to advance our climate goals.

Additionally, as communities of color experience disproportionate economic hardships as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic in addition to decades of discrimination within USDA, I will hold Mr. Vilsack to his promise to “fully deeply and completely address[ing] inequities” within the department and show “zero tolerance for discrimination.”

Thomas Vilsack has the experience and insight to provide immediate relief to our struggling farmers, families, and rural communities. For these reasons, I support his nomination for Secretary of Agriculture.

Ms. STABENOW. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, it is a real honor to be down here with my friend and the chairwoman of the Agriculture Committee, Senator STABENOW, and I appreciate her cooperation in working so very hard and providing the leadership to get Secretary Vilsack confirmed.

The nomination hearing was held a few weeks ago by the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry to vet the former Secretary and now future Secretary Vilsack. The timing was unusual, but it displayed the bipartisan nature of the committee. The committee was not officially organized, so the chairwoman and I, because we didn't want to set a precedent and didn't have any precedent in that situation, led the hearing together. I trust, in going forward, that the chairwoman will continue to work with me and our minority members on the committee

to assist the Agriculture Committee in a truly bipartisan way. We have the example of her and Senator Roberts in the great job that they did in working as a team.

Secretary Vilsack is no stranger to the Department of Agriculture, in having served as the Secretary from 2009 through 2017. He has an excellent reputation of putting rural America at the top of his agenda. I am a strong believer that past performance is indicative of future performance, so I am confident that Secretary Vilsack will be successful this go-around.

I look forward to strengthening my working relationship with the Secretary so we can find success in supporting those who work at the Department and assisting those whom the Department serves. Whether that success is borne from the Secretary's utilizing existing authorities or through new legislation, I trust that the Secretary will work with Congress as the agriculture community tackles new and existing challenges and works to build on countless past successes.

The Department must continue to work with all producers in order to provide them with certainty and with predictability. Farmers and ranchers find themselves in a curious position and curious times in battling COVID, natural disasters, and turning the tide of a few tumultuous trade seasons. The Secretary must ensure that this administration works with producers of all regions and all commodities and that the Department does not make the hard work of farmers and ranchers more difficult by throwing up obstacles as opposed to opening doors of opportunity.

I look forward to Secretary Vilsack's coming back to the committee in a few weeks to discuss his plans in depth for the Department as was agreed to at his hearing. I believe the discussion will help the committee have a clearer picture of the Department and the work that lays before us. I will be voting to confirm Tom Vilsack, former Secretary and future Secretary. I urge others to do so as well.

Again, thank you to the chairwoman for her collegiality and cooperation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the remaining time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON VILSACK NOMINATION

Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Vilsack nomination?

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 92, nays 7, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 63 Ex.]

YEAS—92

Baldwin	Graham	Ossoff
Barrasso	Grassley	Padilla
Bennet	Hagerty	Peters
Blackburn	Hassan	Portman
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Reed
Blunt	Hickenlooper	Risch
Booker	Hirono	Romney
Boozman	Hoeven	Rosen
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Brown	Inhofe	Sasse
Burr	Johnson	Schatz
Cantwell	Kaine	Schumer
Capito	Kelly	Scott (SC)
Cardin	Kennedy	Shelby
Carper	King	Sinema
Casey	Klobuchar	Smith
Cassidy	Lankford	Stabenow
Collins	Leahy	Tester
Coons	Lee	Thune
Cornyn	Lujan	Tillis
Cortez Masto	Lummis	Toomey
Cotton	Manchin	Tuberville
Cramer	Markey	Van Hollen
Crapo	Marshall	Warner
Daines	McConnell	Warnock
Duckworth	Menendez	Warren
Durbin	Merkley	Whitehouse
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Feinstein	Murkowski	Wyden
Fischer	Murphy	Young
Gillibrand	Murray	

NAYS—7

Cruz	Rubio	Sullivan
Hawley	Sanders	
Paul	Scott (FL)	

NOT VOTING—1

Shaheen

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

VOTE ON THOMAS-GREENFIELD NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Thomas-Greenfield nomination?

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 78, nays 21, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 64 Ex.]

YEAS—78

Baldwin	Brown	Casey
Bennet	Burr	Cassidy
Blumenthal	Cantwell	Collins
Blunt	Capito	Coons
Booker	Cardin	Cornyn
Boozman	Carper	Cortez Masto